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West Virginia Adjutant General's update on RISE West Virginia

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - West Virginia National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. James Hoyer, issues the following update on the RISE West Virginia program:

This week, construction crews completed one key turnover for a home that passed final inspection by the West Virginia National Guard Quality Control/Quality Assurance team, bringing the total number of completed homes to 52. Three mobile home units are scheduled for final inspection early next week.

Crews continued to make progress on 40 homes that are in the active construction phase for the RISE West Virginia program. Of the 40 homes in active construction, 21 are mobile home replacements and 19 are stick-built reconstruction projects.

Currently, there are 409 active cases covered under the RISE West Virginia Program. Of that number, 254 have been assigned for total reconstruction, 47 have been assigned for rehabilitation, 101 have been assigned for mobile home replacement, and seven cases are currently undergoing the damage assessment process, awaiting initial project type, and remain unassigned.

Of these totals, 116 cases are in the pre-construction or active construction phases. Of the total 409 active cases, 295 have been awarded to a construction contractor or sub-recipient, 71 are currently out for bid undergoing the required West Virginia state procurement process, and 43 are awaiting a Request for Quotation (RFQ), or are being analyzed via the case management process by West Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (WV VOAD).

Reconstruction refers to projects which require full demolition and complete rebuilding of new structures. This process includes property inspection and permitting through local, state, and federal rules, regulations and ordinances, surveying, asbestos abatement, property demolition, installation of new water and sewer systems, digging of footers and laying of foundations, and property elevation or relocation of structures. Once exterior construction is completed, interior work such as electrical, plumbing, drywall, cabinetry, and trim must be accomplished. Once all work is completed, final inspections must occur before property owners may take possession.

Replacement refers to projects which require full demolition and complete replacement of existing mobile home units. This process includes property inspection and permitting through local, state, and federal rules, regulations and ordinances, surveying, asbestos abatement, property demolition, installation of new water and sewer systems, digging of footers and laying of foundations, and property elevation or relocation of structures. New mobile home units are then placed. Once all work is completed, final inspections must occur before property owners may take possession.

This week, WVNG construction management team has issued ten ‘notices to proceed’ which allows contractors to begin work in the pre-construction phase; three notices for rehabilitation and seven for full reconstruction. Construction on these projects is expected to begin in the coming weeks.

Two additional programs exist to assist families and communities impacted by the 2016 flooding; the WV VOAD Bridge Project, and the Slum and Blight Program.

Under the WV VOAD Bridge Project, which helps families replace private bridges damaged or destroyed during the 2016 flooding, volunteer crews continued to work this week on one bridge. To date, six bridges have been completed, with 68 others in the case management process.

The WV VOAD Bridge Project is still accepting applications in all counties affected by the 2016 flood. For more information on the WV VOAD Bridge Project, call 304-553-0927, or email DisasterRecovery@wv.gov.

Under the Slum and Blight Program, which assists local communities in removing structures damaged and/or abandoned during the 2016 flooding, 268 cases have been completed and closed. 245 cases are currently active, which includes 176 cases that have been deemed as an “imminent threat” from a local county or municipality, meaning those properties pose a threat to the health and safety of the public. An additional 64 cases are awaiting “imminent threat” designation by local jurisdictions. Of

the 176 cases deemed as an “imminent threat,” 20 are in the Tier II Environmental Review phase, while nine have been awarded notification to proceed in demolition and removal efforts.

The Slum and Blight program is still accepting applications in all counties affected by the 2016 flood. For more information on the Slum and Blight Program, call 304-553-0927, or email DisasterRecovery@wv.gov.

Any families who feel they still have any unmet needs or who are looking for an update on their case are urged to contact WV VOAD via phone at 304-553-0927, or through email at DisasterRecovery@wv.gov. A hotline is also available for anyone needing to report fraud with regard to the RISE West Virginia program at 1-866-WVWATCH (1-866-989-2824).

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For more information, contact the West Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office at: (304) 561-6762 or email: holli.r.nelson.mil@mail.mil

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